537,689

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(54) Title: AVAILABILITY SETTINGS IN MOBILE TERMINALS
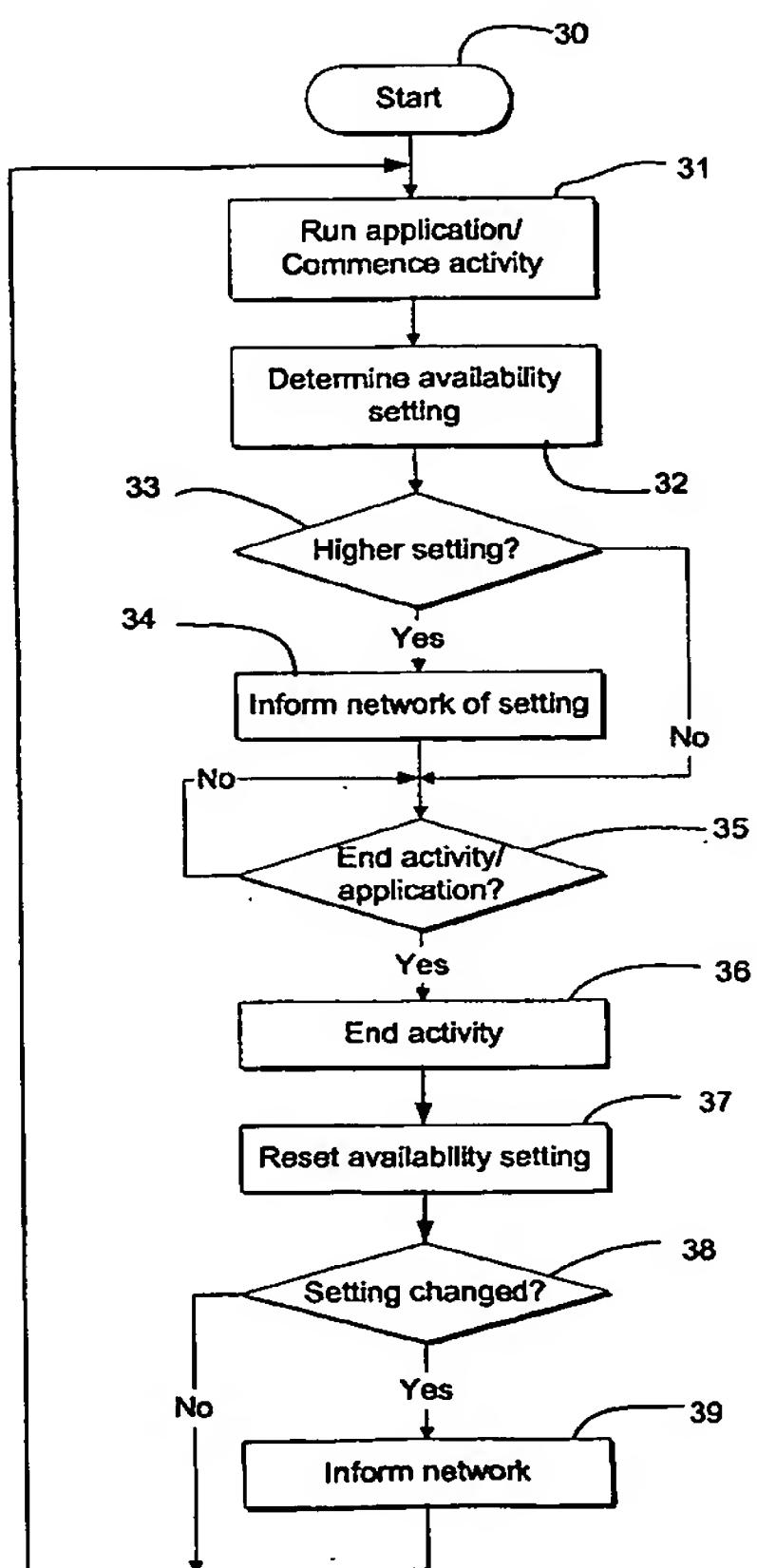
(57) Abstract: A mobile telephone has running as a background task thereon an instant messaging (IM) program. The IM program associates an availability setting of the mobile telephone, which setting is dependent on the profile to which the telephone is currently set. If an application is run or an activity commenced, this is detected at step (31) and the availability setting associated with that application or activity is detected at step (32). If the availability setting associated with the application or activity is higher in any way, for instance, because the setting indicates offline rather than online or unable to receive communications as opposed to able to receive communications, this is detected at step (33). If the setting is higher, the network is informed of the new setting as step (34). Once a detection that the activity or application has ended is made at step (36), the availability settings are reset at step (38), and the network informed of any revised setting at step (39). The disclosed mobile communications terminal avoids a user having to adjust manually the availability settings. The availability setting associated with each application, activity and profile is individually user definable.

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